UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25961
17 June 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 June 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning decisions adopted by the Sanctions Committee at its 93rd meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annexed letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 June 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to our letter dated 21 May 1993, in which I explained certain practices and decisions adopted in the name of the Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990), known as the Sanctions Committee, and the unjust and unjustifiable positions imposed on the Committee by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Japan, reflecting continual hostile and scheming intentions vis-à-vis the people of Iraq, aimed at depriving it of its essential humanitarian needs in the name of international legitimacy.

The decisions of the Sanctions Committee at its 93rd meeting, held on 5 May 1993, clearly show the injustice and wrong being done to the Iraqi people in the service of inimical political aims that govern the conduct of the representatives of the said countries within the Committee. It has been confirmed, moreover, that the political motives and scheming intentions of those countries constitute their sole objective, with no regard whatsoever for the needs and suffering of the Iraqi people despite Iraq's performance of its obligations under the Security Council resolutions.

In a rapid review of the requests rejected by the Committee at that meeting, we note the following:

1. Objection by the United States to 7 requests;

2. Objection by the United Kingdom to 7 requests;

3. Objection by France to 6 requests;

4. Objection by Japan to 3 requests.

In addition, numerous other requests have been kept in abeyance or deferred on a variety of pretexts, to the surprise and vexation to many other members of the Committee.

The best example of what we are saying is provided by the decisions adopted by the Committee at its most recent meeting, of which we shall cite a number:

1. Rejection of a request to supply Iraqi merchants with quantities of glue, due to objections on the part of the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom on the grounds that they constituted an input to Iraqi industry.

2. Rejection of a request to supply the State Enterprise for Tobacco and Cigarettes with quantities of Virginia tobacco, due to an objection on the part of the representative of the United States on the grounds that they constituted an input to Iraqi industry.

3. Rejection of a request to supply the Government fertilizer company with quantities of caustic soda and sodium phosphate for water-treatment purposes, due to an objection on the part of the representative of the United States, seconded by the representative of the United Kingdom, on the grounds that the end user was unknown.

4. Rejection of a request to supply water desalination equipment to the South Refinery in Basra, due to an objection by the representative of the United States on the grounds that such equipment could be used for other purposes. Here the Sanctions Committee was ignoring the reports of the humanitarian missions and international organizations that had visited the area and stressed in their reports Iraq's need for such equipment.

5. Rejection of a request to supply Iraqi merchants with construction cement additives due to an objection by the representative of the United Kingdom, on the grounds that such materials would enhance Iraq's industrial infrastructure, as though the Security Council resolutions contained anything to the effect that Iraqi citizens had no right to build dwellings, which is the first of all human rights.

6. Rejection of a request to supply Iraqi merchants with tyres and oil filters for vehicles due to an objection on the part of the representative of France on the grounds that they would be used for private vehicles. Here we ask ourselves what is wrong with an Iraqi national using his private car like any individual belonging to any other people in the world.

Some members of the Committee, in their political motives and scheming intentions hostile to the Iraqi people, fail to take into consideration the reports of the humanitarian missions which have visited the area and clearly reported the scope of the severe shortages affecting the basic civilian and humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, especially in the areas of food and health, and their impact on children, the elderly, women and pregnant mothers, in particular. Moreover, the continuation of this situation has resulted in an elevation of mortality rates among children, the elderly and the sick.

We adjure you once again, even more strongly than before, to exercise your good offices and intervene in earnest to call a halt to these practices of the Sanctions Committee, which run counter to all humanitarian values and considerations, so as not to impair the credibility of the international Organization, whose reputation is sullied by such practices. I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.